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NCA
VOC FOR IOP/FN
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JOHN ROBERTS/NAIROBI

KENYA AND THE HORN

ANNCR :

THIS WEEK'S TALKS IN WASHINGTON BETWEEN PRESIDENT CARTER AND A HIGH-LEVEL DELEGATION FROM KENYA ARE EXPECTED TO FOCUS ON KENYA'S CONCERNS OVER THE WAR IN THE HORN OF AFRICA BETWEEN ETHIOPIA AND SOMALIA. VOA'S JOHN ROBERTS HAS THIS BACKGROUND REPORT FROM NAIROBI ON HOW KENYA VIEWS THE SITUATION:

VOICE:

THERE ARE AMPLE INDICATIONS HERE IN NAIROBI THAT KENYA BELIEVES THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY IS DISREGARDING KENYA'S STAKE IN THE OUTCOME OF THE FIGHTING IN THE OGADEN REGION OF EASTERN ETHIOPIA. THE VIEW IS THAT JOURNALISTS COVERING THE WAR, MOST OF WHOM LIVE IN NAIROBI, HAVE BEEN FOCUSING ON RELATIONS BETWEEN ETHIOPIA AND SOMALIA AND HAVE BEEN OVERLOOKING AN EQUALLY EXPLOSIVE SITUATION BETWEEN SOMALIA AND KENYA. KENYA IS EXTREMELY SENSITIVE TO DEVELOPMENTS INVOLVING HER NEIGHBOR TO THE NORTH, BECAUSE SOMALIA HAS NEVER RELINQUISHED CLAIMS TO PARTS OF NORTHERN KENYA, AS WELL AS THE OGADEN DESERT OF ETHIOPIA AND THE RED SEA CITY OF DJIBOUTI.

THE MASSIVE INFUSION OF SOVIET AND CUBAN SOLDIERS INTO THE ETHIOPIAN SIDE OF THE CONFLICT HAS PROMPTED SOME ARAB AND WESTERN COUNTRIES TO GIVE VARIOUS FORMS OF ASSISTANCE TO THE SOMALIANS. IN KENYA'S VIEW, ECONOMIC AID TO SOMALIA, TO SAY NOTHING OF MILITARY ASSISTANCE, AMOUNTS TO HELPING AN ENEMY AND THERE ARE FEARS THAT IF SOMALIA IS N O T DEFEATED IN THE OGADEN, IT WILL TURN ITS ATTENTION TO NORTHERN KENYA. THESE CONCERNS ARE CERTAIN TO BE RAISED IN WASHINGTON BETWEEN MEMBERS

OF THE CARTER ADMINISTRATION AND THE KENYAN DELEGATION HEADED BY VICE-PRESIDENT DANIEL ARAP MOI. THE UNITED STATES HAS PURSUED A POLICY OF STRICT NEUTRALITY IN THE HORN OF AFRICA CONFLICT. IT HAS REFUSED TO SEND ARMS TO EITHER ETHIOPIA OR SOMALIA, AND HAS CALLED FOR A WITHDRAWAL OF SOVIET, CUBAN AND REGULAR SOMALI ARMY FORCES FROM THE DISPUTED REGION.

IN THEIR DISCUSSIONS THE KENYAN DIPLOMATS ARE ALSO EXPECTED TO PRESS THE UNITED STATES FOR MORE ARMS TO DEFEND KENYA AGAINST ANY SOMALI INCURSIONS IN THE NORTHERN PART OF THE COUNTRY. IN A RECENT TELEVISION INTERVIEW, FOREIGN MINISTER MUNYUA WAIYAKI COMPLAINED ABOUT WESTERN PREOCCUPATION WITH THE SOVIET AND CUBAN MILITARY BUILDUP IN ETHIOPIA AND WHAT HE CALLED, WESTERN INDIFFERENCE TO KENYA'S ARMS NEEDS. BUT MOST OF ALL, THE KENYA ENVOYS ARE EXPECTED TO ARGUE THAT THE CONFLICT BETWEEN ETHIOPIA AND SOMALIA IS ALSO A GRAVE THREAT TO KENYA -- A TRADITIONAL FRIEND OF THE WEST -- AND THAT, THEREFORE, WESTERN INTERESTS ARE ALSO INVOLVED IN KENYA'S SECURITY.

WJL/RCS